

COMIC SHOP NEWS



THE BIONIC MAN VS. THE BIONIC WOMAN

Get Ready for the Bionic Battle!

2011 saw the debut of Dynamite's updated version of Steve Austin in the pages of *Kevin Smith's Bionic Man*. In early 2012, Dynamite followed that up with the launch of Jamie Sommers' solo series, *The Bionic Woman*. So that's it for the *Bionic* franchise, right?

Not quite! In 2013, Dynamite brings both characters together in the frequently-requested five-issue limited series *The Bionic Man Vs. The Bionic Woman*, written by Keith Champagne, illustrated by Jose Luis, and with cover art by Ardian Syaf, Sean Chen, Jonathan Lau, and Jack Herbert.

"The story begins when Steve Austin disappears on the trail of a seemingly-bionic serial killer," Keith Champagne said. "Trying to find out what happened to him, Oscar Goldman enlists Jamie Sommers to find him. As you might expect, things go badly... Then they get much worse!"

The Bionic Man Vs. The Bionic Woman is a project that many readers have asked for ever since it was first revealed that Dynamite had landed the rights to both series, but publisher Nick Barrucci didn't want to rush into the crossover project. "Bionic fans have asked for *The Bionic Man vs. The Bionic Woman* from the get-go, but we wanted to wait till we shipped over a years worth of *Bionic Man's* before releasing this," Barrucci said. "Now, prepare for ultimate bionic action!"

Why did Barrucci choose to wait until 2013 for the first *Bionic* crossover? "First and foremost, we wanted to build a market presence," Barrucci said. "That is extremely important to us so that we can show fans and retailers that we would deliver the book on time."

"Second, we needed to give fans and retailers a solid year's worth of *Bionic Man* stories so that they could get a feel for the book, enjoy it, and allow for us to have bigger market when we launch the crossover. There are story elements that had to be set in place with the ongoing series in order for the miniseries to happen—not only in the *Bionic Man* title, but also in the *Bionic Woman* book."

The challenge for writer Keith Champagne was to come up with a story that would appeal to fans who have been enjoy-

ing both solo series, but it had to be written in such a way that it could be a perfect access point for new readers hoping to explore the *Bionic* world. "I'm trying to tell a self contained story, something that one would be able to enjoy without reading the two individual series," Champagne said.

However, he didn't want to pull in too many supporting characters, villains, or concepts unique to the two Dynamite series. "Obviously, important characters like Oscar Goldman are going to be in there but ARTIFICIAL is pretty much its own beast. However, I am playing a bit with the romantic status quo that's been established between the two characters."

For Champagne, the opportunity to write *The Bionic Man Vs. The Bionic Woman* marked the fulfillment of a longtime ambition. "Growing up a huge fan of Steve Austin and now having such a strong admiration for the work Kevin Smith and Phil Hester have done to redefine the characters, I almost have to pinch



myself that not only do I get to play in this world, but I get to tell the Steve Austin/Jamie Sommers story I've carried with me all these years," Champagne enthused. "Expect plenty of twists and turns before it's all over because I'm putting both Steve and Jamie through their bionic paces. Let's see what they look like when,—or if—they make it out to the other side."

The series is entitled *The Bionic Man VS The Bionic Woman*—so are readers truly going to see a face-off involving the two characters? "You better believe it! In fact, one of their faces might actually get ripped off!" Champagne joked (we think!).

"I know personally, I prefer my violence in movies/comics/TV when there is a subtext behind it," Champagne continued. "There's currently a lot of unresolved emotional uncertainty and frustration between Steve



and Jamie. Maybe the punches and kicks—and possible faces being ripped off—are a metaphor for something else?"

It appears that there are a number of bionically enhanced characters in the same universe as Steve and Jamie. Is the technology in the hands of others, or does all of it stem from the same government program that created the two title characters?

"Well, I kind of look at it like Iran trying to acquire nuclear weapons," Champagne explained. "Suddenly, America has these cutting edge, Bionic warriors. The rest of the world is now racing to catch up. But actual results are mixed."

While Champagne's venture into the realm of the *Bionic* is only slated for five issues, the writer said, "Personally, I love *The Bionic Man*. I could write a hundred issues and never get bored."

Will any of the events of this limited series resonate through the two solo books later in 2013? "You'll have to wait and see about that!" Champagne said.

And considering Dynamite's recent tendency towards crossover events bringing together diverse properties (such as *Prophecy* and *Masks*), is there any chance that we might see a project that involves Steve Austin, Jamie Sommers, and other Dynamite heroes? "For today they'll remain in their own self contained universe," Barrucci said. "But down the line, you never know!..."

The Bionic Man Vs. The Bionic Woman #1, a \$3.99 comic by Keith Champagne & Jose Luis, is slated for mid-January release. In addition to the four standard covers, Dynamite will also offer a 1-for-10 incentive cover featuring art by Chris Eliopoulos; a 1-for-25 incentive cover spotlighting Ardian Syaf's pencil art; and a 1-for-35 black and white Sean Chen cover.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!





DOLLAR BILL

Dollar Bill Changes Before Watchmen Schedule

Think you have a complete list of DC's *Before Watchmen* titles? Think again—the publisher has just announced the addition of a new *Before Watchmen* oneshot, *Dollar Bill*, written by Len Wein and illustrated by Steve Rude.

Until now, Bill Brady, aka Dollar Bill, has been an almost-overlooked member of the Minute Men. He was little more than costumed background—an athlete and actor turned masked hero. "He's never been visited before. Of all the Watchmen, he's the one with the least information given about him over the course of the series," Wein told mtvgeek.com.

Wein's goal with this oneshot is to explore the reasons that a successful man would choose to put on a costume and become little more than a corporate mascot. "The difference between Bill and the rest of the characters is that he kind of accepts his lot in life," Wein said. "He just copes. He's one of those guys who just gets by... he just does what he needs to do."

Since Dollar Bill got very little attention in the original *Watchmen* outside of a mention in Hollis Mason's book-within-the-book *Under the Hood*, Wein had a great deal of leeway to explore the character, his background, and his motivations. "It's a tragedy," Wein said, "but some good came out of it."

Before Watchmen: Dollar Bill #1 is slated for January 30th release.

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

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HARBINGER

Harbinger's Harbinger

Want information on *Harbinger's* past—and a harbinger of *Harbinger's* future? Then you need to add *Harbinger #0* to your must-read list right now!

In *Harbinger #0*, Joshua Dysart & Mico Suayan present the origin of the most powerful and feared man in the Valiant Universe, Toyo Harada. Harada has a vision for the perfect future—and it's one that he will realize with or without the consent of the rest of humanity. In order to achieve it, he's built a private army of hyper-telekinetics within the Harbinger Foundation. But what was the turning point that led Harada to the despot's path? And how will his vast ambitions soon impact the whole of the Valiant Universe? As the "Renegades" storyline spotlights a new generation of heroes monthly in *Harbinger #s 6-10*, this pivotal standalone issue reveals who—or what—changed Harada into a force beyond all human reckoning.

Harbinger #0 will be offered with

three different covers—a standard cover by Mico Suayan, a pullbox exclusive cover by Clayton Henry & Clayton Crain, and Valiant's first-ever gatefold triptych cover by rising star Lewis Larosa. Look for it on February 6th.

What's It All About? Alpha!

Alpha, the teen hero first introduced in *Amazing Spider-Man #692*, graduates to his own limited series starting in February, courtesy of writer Joshua Hale Fialkov and artist Nuno Plati. The story follows Andy Maguire, aka Alpha, as he relocated to Pittsburg (which just so happens to be Fialkov's home town).

"He's been demoted from this awesome life to nothing," Fialkov told *USA Today*. "All the cool stuff is gone." But his links to that former life aren't entirely broken: every few weeks, he has to "fly back to New York... on a Horizon private jet" to check in with Peter Parker (and from that we can deduce that not only does



ALPHA 1

Peter Parker survive the events of *Amazing Spider-Man #700*, but that he remains in the employ of Horizon Labs).

However, the relationship between Alpha

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER

SPIDER-MAN



STAN LEE
LARRY LIEBER
11-5

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and Spider-Man undergoes a major change in *Amazing Spider-Man* #700—and in fact, the events of this miniseries are in many ways a direct result of what happens in the landmark issue.

Editor Steve Wacker described *Alpha* as “a classic Marvel situation where you’ve got a kid with power who is making some wrong decisions. That’s an inherently dramatic story—watching someone screw up and learning along with them and seeing how they change.

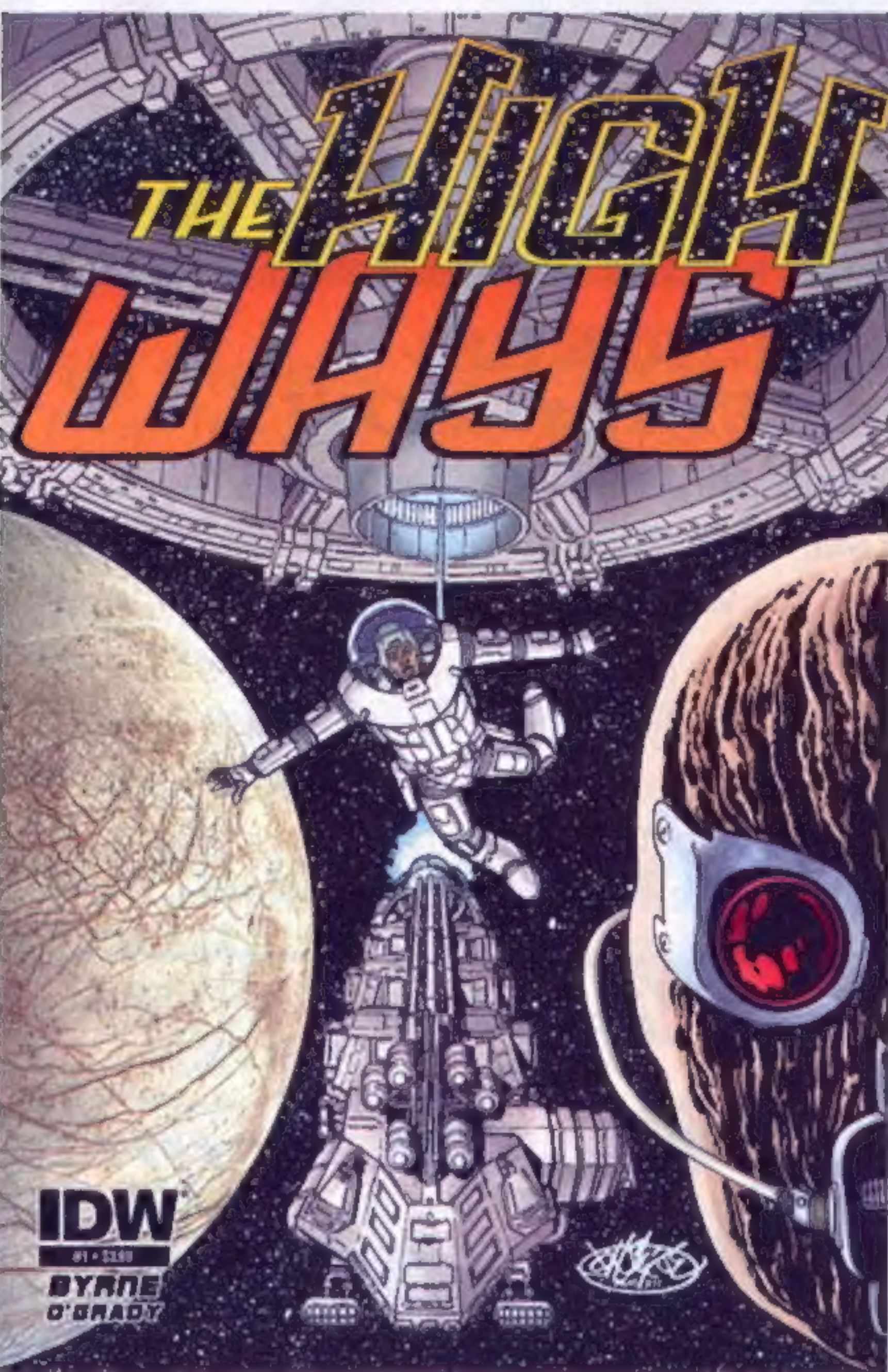
Alpha #1 is slated for mid-February release.

Byrne Hits the High Ways

John Byrne is starbound with his new science fiction adventure series *The High Ways*, produced for IDW Publishing. The four-part miniseries, both written and illustrated by Byrne, follows the exploits of a spirited young man named Eddie Wallace, who joins up with a crew of a rock-hopping freighter, eager to see what lies beyond the clouds. As these things tend to go, however, everything in these early days of interstellar travel isn’t quite what it seems as intrigue and mystery abound.

“This evolved into something a bit more like *Dan Dare*, the British sci-fi strip so beloved from my childhood and early teens. I liked the idea of playing in that ‘old time sci-fi’ kind of milieu, where all the adventures took place within the Solar System, and where life—even intelligent, humanoid life—was to be found everywhere,” Byrne said.

Even better, Byrne has revealed that this series has links to another one of his popular creations. “I decided this takes place in the Next Men ‘universe’—though in the altered timeline our heroes created when they wiped out Project Next Men. The time is eighty or ninety years in the Future, roughly, and a central character of the first arc is Eddie Wallace, who appeared briefly in the previous series.”



This is just the first of several projects forthcoming from Byrne in the next year. “I’ve found John Byrne’s boundless creativity, wealth of ideas and his ability to consistently deliver high-quality comics on time to be pretty much unmatched over the course of our six-plus years of working together,” IDW Chief Creative Officer and Editor-in-

Chief Chris Ryall said. “I’m happy to continue that with *The High Ways*. 2013 is going to be a big year for John Byrne and IDW, with John prepping two new series to roll out later in ‘13 as well.”

The High Ways #1 is slated for mid-January release.



A Valiant Effort

Without a doubt, Valiant Entertainment stands out as the biggest publishing launch of 2012. The company’s carefully planned rollout has enabled them to construct a complex universe around series that appeal both to readers of the original Valiant titles and to newcomers who have no knowledge of the earlier versions of these characters.

For executive editor Warren Simons, making every Valiant title appealing to new readers is crucial to the line’s success. “It’s incredibly important to me as an editor to try to make all of the titles accessible to new readers. That’s part of our mission at Valiant—to emphasize storytelling and great characters above all else, and not use continuity or nostalgia as a crutch,” Simons said.

How much longer will Valiant fans have to wait for the next series rollout? According to publisher Fred Pierce, Valiant prefers to focus on building and developing a focused number of quality series by proven talents rather than flooding the market with lackluster titles. “Between May and November, Valiant has launched five new monthly titles with *X-O Manowar*, *Harbinger*, *Bloodshot*, *Archer & Armstrong* and *Shadowman*—that’s a bear for the editorial staff and talent,” Pierce said. “And the reviews have

been as good as anything in the marketplace. Robert Venditti, Joshua Dysart, Duane Swierczynski, Fred Van Lente, Justin Jordan, Patrick Zircher, Executive Editor Warren Simons, Associate Editor Jody LeHeup, and Associate Editor Josh Johns have numerous new characters appearing every month. Of course, some of those new characters appeared in previous incarnations of the Valiant Universe, but many are brand spanking new.

“We’re always looking to create excitement in the line, whether that’s by introducing pitting The Eternal Warrior against his brother in *Archer & Armstrong* #5 or debuting *Shadowman* in his own book. And in addition to our new titles, we are also rolling out a trade paperback line beginning with a collection of the new *X-O Manowar* #1-4 for \$9.99 this December and a hardcover line beginning with the classic *Bloodshot* #1-8 in October.”

Thus far, every Valiant title character has been male; any chance that readers might see an emphasis on major female characters in the future? “Female characters are essential to filling out the total perspective of any universe,” Pierce said. “You will find strong, female characters evolving in a number of Valiant titles and they are going to have major roles. In particular, over the next few months, keep your eyes on *Harbinger* and *Archer and Armstrong*.”

While Valiant stresses the importance of each individual series, they also recognize that significance of event stories to comic book readers. “We’ve just announced the first Valiant mini-event, ‘Planet Death,’ which will be hitting with *X-O Manowar* #9 in January,” Simons said.

But what about a bigger linewide event? “Watch this space,” Simons replied. “We have some incredible things in the making for all the books—and this time next year, rest assured, the Valiant Universe is going to be a very different place!”



CSNsider

•Marvel has teased an *Uncanny* addition to their line for February release; while the teaser ads don’t name a specific title, they do feature the word *Uncanny*, which could indicate a relaunch of the recently-ended *Uncanny X-Men* series (which, if it is the case, will be the third Marvel NOW title to feature the word “Uncanny” in its title). Since it had been rumored that Brian Bendis would be writing two X-Men series, and thus

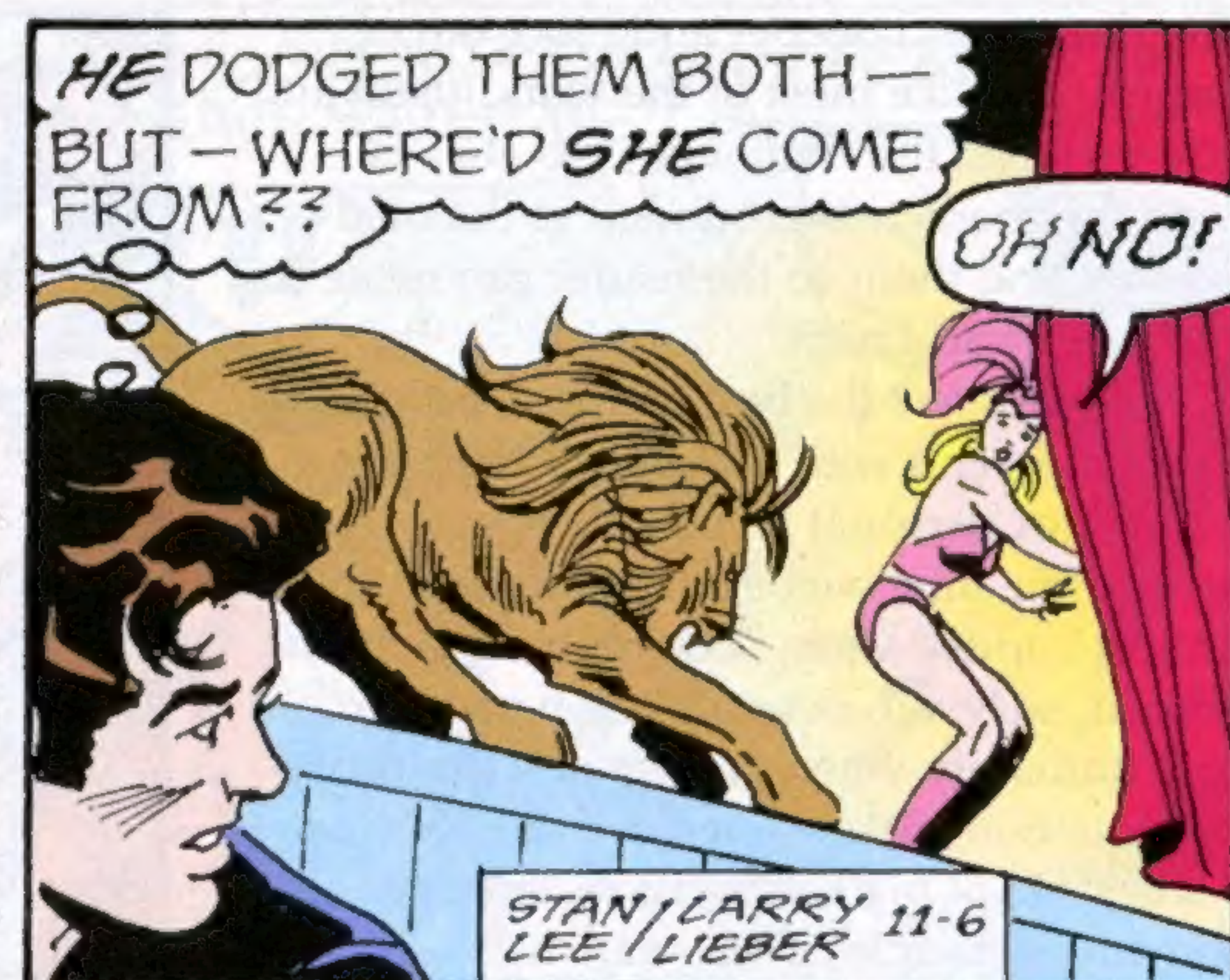
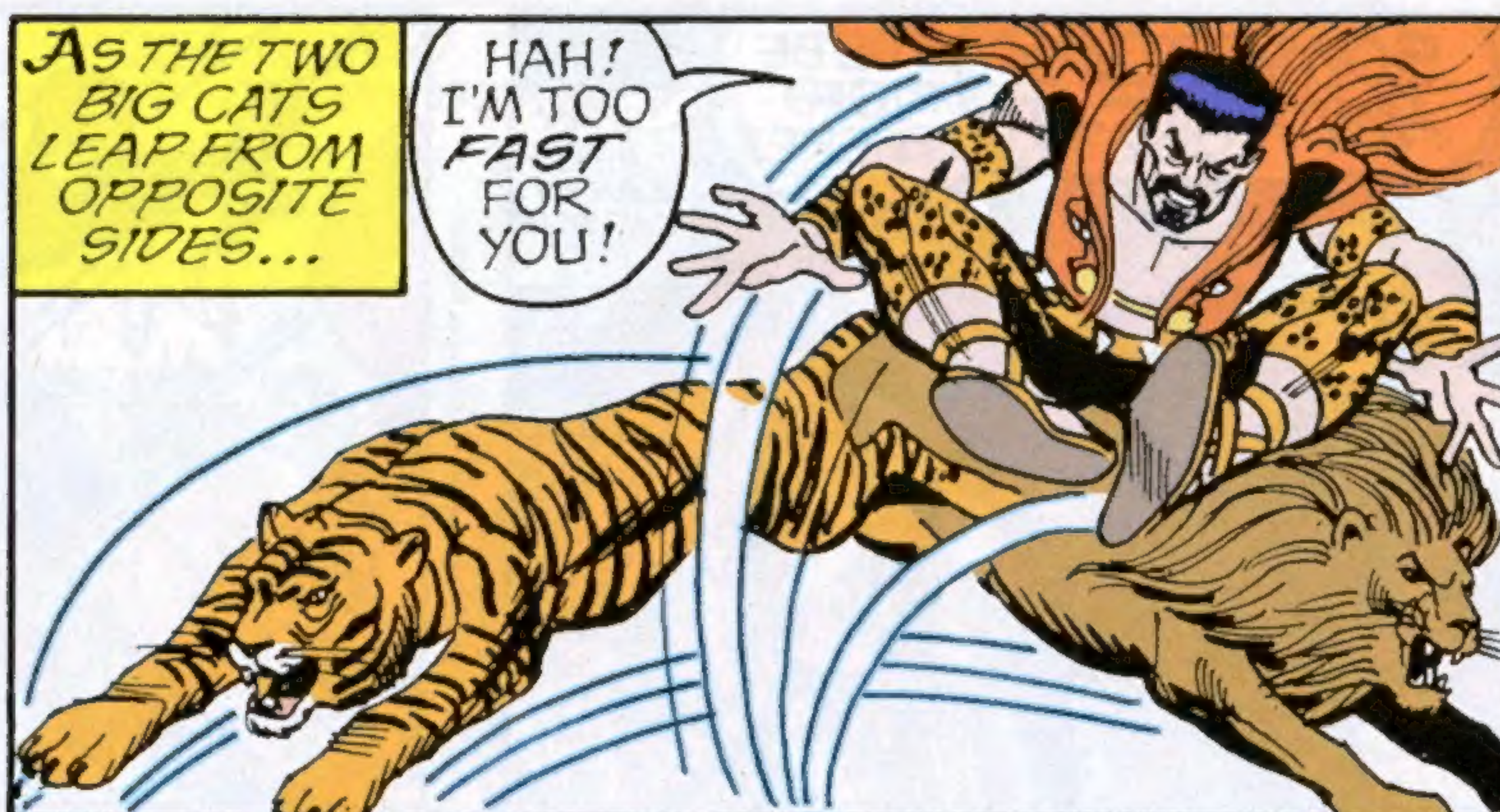
far the only book ascribed to him is *All-New X-Men*, it seems likely that this new series by Bendis and Chris Bachalo will be the relaunched *Uncanny X-Men*. But we should know for sure in the next week or two—and as soon as the info is confirmed, you’ll hear about it in CSN!

•With the recent announcement that Disney has acquired Lucasfilm, what is the future of *Star Wars* at Dark Horse? After all, when Disney acquired Marvel, it was only a matter of months before they ended all their licensed properties at Boom Entertainment and moved them over to Marvel; could the same thing happen with *Star Wars*? Dark Horse publisher Mike Richardson addressed the issue in this statement: “Dark Horse and Lucasfilm have a strong partnership which spans over 20 years, and has produced multiple characters and story lines which are now part of the *Star Wars* lore. *Star Wars* will be with us for the near future.

Obviously, this deal changes the landscape, so we’ll all have to see what it means for the future.” And we’ll all be waiting right alongside Dark Horse (who has published many outstanding contributions to *Star Wars* canon over the two-plus decades they have had the license).



•IDW and Craig Yoe continue their reprinting of public-domain Steve Ditko material with the 224-page *Ditko Monsters: Gorgo*, which reprints all 23 issues of the Charlton series written by Joe Gill and illustrated by Ditko, which was inspired by the 1961 MGM giant monster film. What is of particular interest to classic comic fans is that the Ditko material in this volume was produced at the very same time that Ditko was doing his landmark work on Marvel’s *Amazing Spider-Man* as well as his Doctor Strange stories in the back of *Strange Tales*.



"This is the third Ditko book I've had the great pleasure to produce—the first two were *The Art of Ditko* and *The Creativity of Ditko*," Yoe said. "As proud of I am of those, this one may be the most fun yet, because it's all about a ginormous, scaly-skinned, dinosaur-like, anti-social, city-smashing *monster*. Ditko obviously had a blast doing these mad-cool comics, smashingly putting the "GO" in Gorgo!"

IDW plans to follow up with a companion volume reprinting Ditko's giant gorilla series *Konga*, also produced for Charlton. •Marvel has listened to collector and retailer concerns about the potential price of the 1-for-700-copy Joe Quesada sketch variant cover for *Amazing Spider-Man* #700 (which is a \$7.99 comic), and has reduced that to a more reachable 1-for-150-copy ratio. Many completists are undoubtedly breathing a sigh of relief. (Marvel has also reduced the ratio for the Joe Quesada color variant to 1-for-100.)



•Jimmy Palmiotti & Justin Gray explore the dark side of scientific research in *Retrovirus*, an original graphic novel focusing on a brilliant young scientist's research into a prehistoric virus—and her discovery that the pharmaceutical corporation paying for her research has a perfectly-preserved Neanderthal on hand (a discovery that makes her quite expendable as far as her employers are concerned).

"The fun of working on a project like this is looking at the set-up from a point of view like our character Zoe and putting all the pieces, together with her along the way," Palmiotti said. "With every turn the story gets deeper and deeper and more out of control, and like most of the work Justin and I do together, the challenge is to always keep the characters grounded in the madness around them so the reader can relate to every twist and turn."

"I always feel the best fiction is propelled by themes, and with *Retrovirus* there are a number of personal themes that arose in and around the time we began working on this project," added Gray. "Zoe represents motherhood, survival, determination and our core humanity when presented with terrifying situations. We wanted not only to create a story full of big scary action, but also something people could relate to."

Retrovirus, a 72-page full-color graphic novel published by Image Comics, should be available in comic shops now.



Back to Press

- AVX: Consequences #1 2nd Printing** (SEP128202), featuring a variant cover by Patrick Zircher, (pictured above) in stores 12/5.
- AVX: Consequences #2 2nd Printing** (SEP128203), featuring a variant cover by Patrick Zircher, in stores 12/5.
- AVX: Consequences #3 2nd Printing** (SEP128204), featuring a variant cover by Patrick Zircher, in stores 12/5.
- AVX: Consequences #4 2nd Printing** (SEP128205), featuring a variant cover by Patrick Zircher, in stores 12/5.
- Bravest Warriors #1 2nd Printing** (SEP128109), in stores 11/28.
- Freelancers #1 2nd Printing** (SEP128234), in stores 12/19.
- Happy #1 3rd Printing** (SEP128237), in stores 12/5.
- Happy #2 2nd Printing** (SEP128238), in stores 12/5.
- Hawkeye #1 3rd Printing** (SEP128135), featuring a variant cover by David Aja, in stores 11/28.
- Hawkeye #2 3rd Printing** (SEP128136), featuring a variant cover by David Aja, in stores 11/28.
- MacGyver: Fugitive Gauntlet #1 2nd Printing** (SEP128209), in stores 11/28.
- Punisher: War Zone #1 2nd Printing** (SEP128206), in stores 12/5.
- Red Hood and the Outlaws #13 2nd Printing** (SEP128212), featuring a recolored version of the original cover by Kenneth Rocafort, in stores 11/28.
- Revival #4 2nd Printing** (SEP128239), in stores 12/5.
- Bedlam #1 2nd Printing** (SEP128208), in stores 11/28.
- Wolverine MAX #1 2nd Printing** (SEP128207), in stores 12/5.

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AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #700

Dan Slott (W) Richard Elson & others (A)
(Marvel OCT120626 \$7.99)

What's the Scoop?

What is the shocking secret of Doctor Octopus's final scheme for payback? And how does it lead to Peter Parker's abandoning the role of Spider-Man?

Why Should You Care?

Dan Slott has promised a storyline that will have everyone talking, leading to the shocking debut of a new hero in the Spider-Man uniform beginning in January's *Superior Spider-Man* #1. And Dan's not a guy to mislead his many fans!...

AQUAMAN #15

Geoff Johns (W); Ardian Syaf (A)
(DC OCT120152 \$2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Atlantis invades the surface world in the second chapter of "Throne of Atlantis."

Why Should You Care?

This book picks up right where the best-selling *Justice League* #15 leaves off, which means that anyone who wants the whole story will have to have this book! And with Geoff Johns telling the tale, it's sure to be one heck of a read!



CSN TOP

AVENGERS #1 NOW

Jonathan Hickman (W); Jerome Opena (A)
(Marvel SEP120526 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Captain America assembles the newest team of Avengers, a mix of superstar favorites and surprising up-and-comers.

Why Should You Care?

Brian Bendis made the mediocre *Avengers* a gem for Marvel; Jonathan Hickman made the *Fantastic Four* a must-read. Now Hickman jumps to *Avengers*, picking up where the Bendis saga left off and promising a surprising new direction for Marvel's best-known superteam franchise.



AVENGERS: ARENA #1 NOW

Dennis Hopeless (W); Kev Walker (A)
(Marvel OCT120577 \$2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Sixteen superhero young adults—including Darkhawk as well as members of the Runaways and Avengers Academy—are forced to battle to the death on a remote island. Welcome to Murder World...



COMICS: DECEMBER

Why Should You Care?

Dennis Hopeless & Kev Walker bring the savagery of *Battle Royale* together with the grim heroism of *The Hunger Games* in a superhero confrontation that really is a life-and-death struggle.

MARVEL NOW!



CABLE AND X-FORCE #1 NOW

Dennis Hopeless (W); Salvador Larroca (A)
(Marvel OCT120568 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Cable is back, complete with a new X-Force at his side... but who are his new recruits, and why is his team public enemy number one?

Why Should You Care?

Dennis Hopeless & Salvador Larroca recapture the energy of the '90s in this book that combines the over-the-top energy of that era with modern storytelling sensibilities—and to make the series doubly attractive, they're delivering an Uncanny Avengers appearance right out of the gate!

CASTLE: A CALM BEFORE STORM #1 (OF 5)

Peter David (W); Robert Atkins (A)
(Marvel OCT120651 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Derrick Storm adaptations continue in the first *Castle* miniseries. Who is the Fear and what does he want with Derrick Storm? And what does Clara Strike have to do with this?

Why Should You Care?

Peter David, one of comics' best writers of adaptations (literary, television, and cinematic), does the writing honors for this new miniseries—and that's a guarantee of quality if we've ever heard one!

Comic Shop News

CROW: SKINNING THE WOLVES #1 (OF 3)

James O'Barr (W/A)
(IDW OCT120354 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

In a death camp in 1940s Germany, a simple game of chess turns deadly, leading to the creation of a new Crow.

Why Should You Care?

Crow creator James O'Barr returns as both writer and artist of this three-part series, which makes this essential reading for anyone who ever enjoyed the original *Crow* series!

DEATHMATCH #1

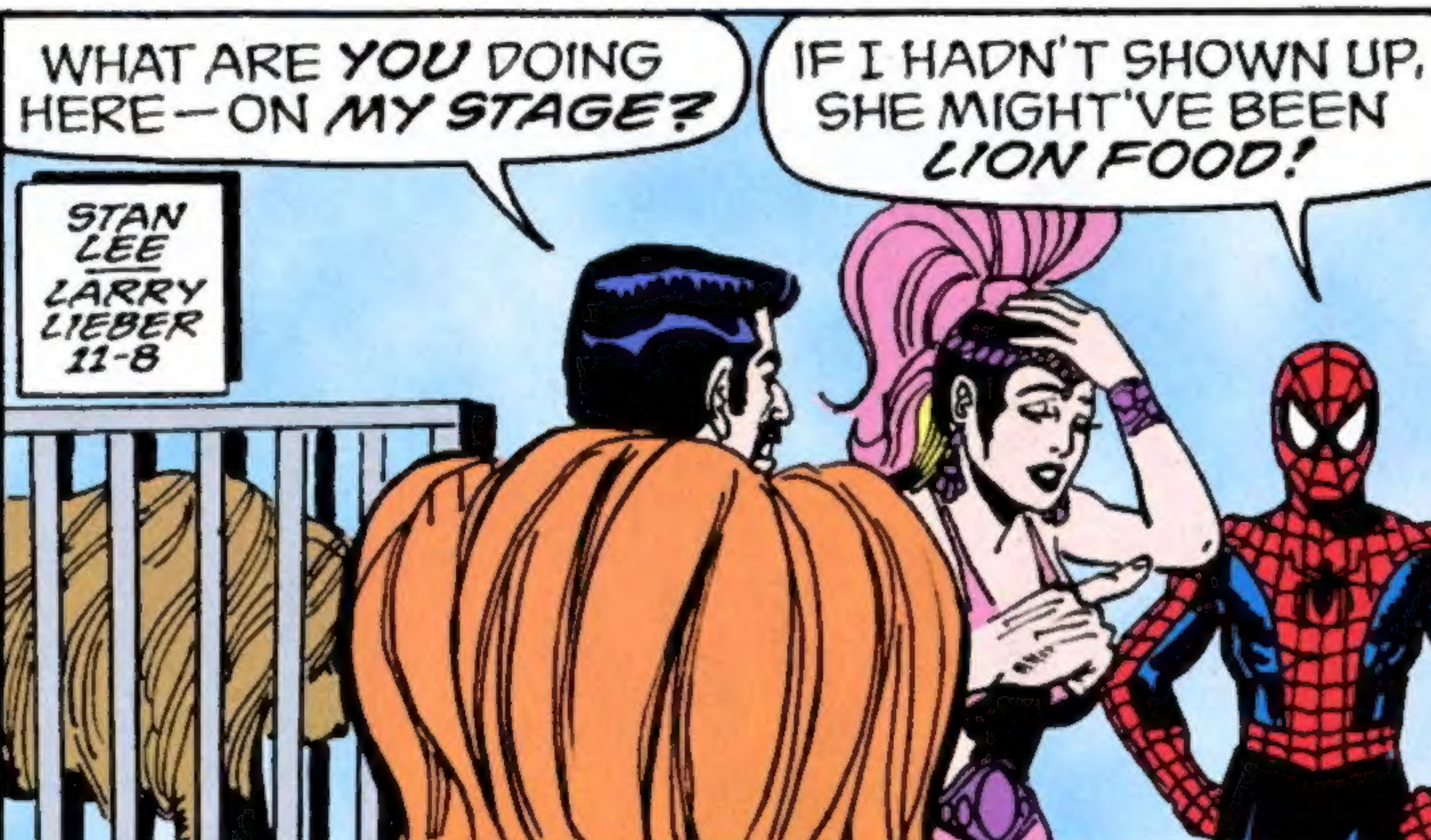
Paul Jenkins (W); Carlos Magno (A)
(Boom OCT120874 \$1.00)

What's the Scoop?

A powerful and mysterious supervillain imprisons the world's greatest superheroes, forcing them to fight one another to the death.

Why Should You Care?

The concept has been around for decades (and in fact, Marvel is presenting a new twist on it in this month's *Avengers: Arena*), but Paul Jenkins and Boom have an advantage over the big publishers: they've created new-but-familiar heroes who can be killed off in any way Jenkins wants, because they're not tied to a multi-million-dollar licensing and marketing campaign! Look for heroes to fall in every issue—and while the names may be



different, many of these heroes are likely to seem more than a little familiar to longtime comics readers...

HELLBOY IN HELL #1

Mike Mignola (W/A)
(Dark Horse OCT120009 \$2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Hellboy is dead, cast into hell... While that might be the end of the story for many heroes, it's just the beginning of the next phase of Hellboy's existence as he faces many adversaries, finds many familiar faces, and discovers a throne that awaits him...

Why Should You Care?

It's what every *Hellboy* fan has dreamed of: Mike Mignola returns to both write and illustrate the next chapter in the saga of his flagship character!



JSA: LIBERTY FILES—THE WHISTLING SKULL #1 (OF 6)

B. Clay Moore (W); Tony Harris (A)
(DC OCT120239 \$2.99)

What's the Scoop?

In 1940s Europe, the Nazi war machine is on the move... but smaller-scale crimes still need to be solved. And the Whistling Skull and his sidekick Knuckles are on the job—but can they solve the most bizarre mystery of all?

Why Should You Care?

B. Clay Moore & Tony Harris introduce a new pulp-influenced hero operating in the same world as *JSA: The Liberty Files*... and yes, that means that the JSA will play a part in this series!

JUSTICE LEAGUE #15

Geoff Johns (W); Ivan Reis (A)
(DC OCT120147 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Justice League bands together to battle the forces of Atlantis... but which side will Aquaman take in this battle, and how will he be affected by its outcome?

Why Should You Care?

Well, *Aquaman* is one of the biggest hits to come out of the New 52 relaunch... and *Justice League* is DC's best-selling ongoing title... and this is the first crossover involving the two series... and storytelling superstar Geoff Johns is writing both... Just how many reasons do you need, anyway?

SHERLOCK HOLMES: LIVERPOOL DEMON #1 (OF 5)

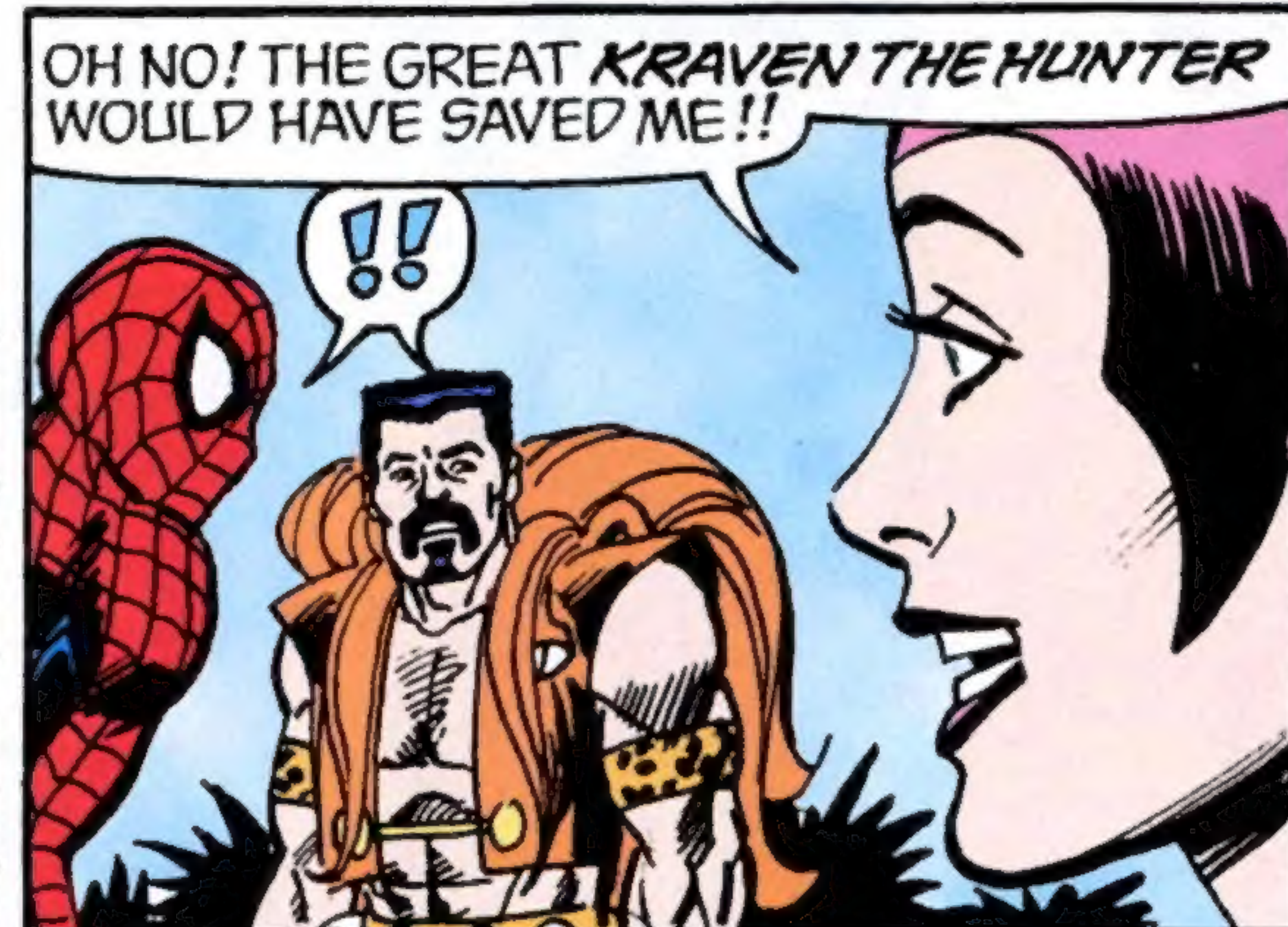
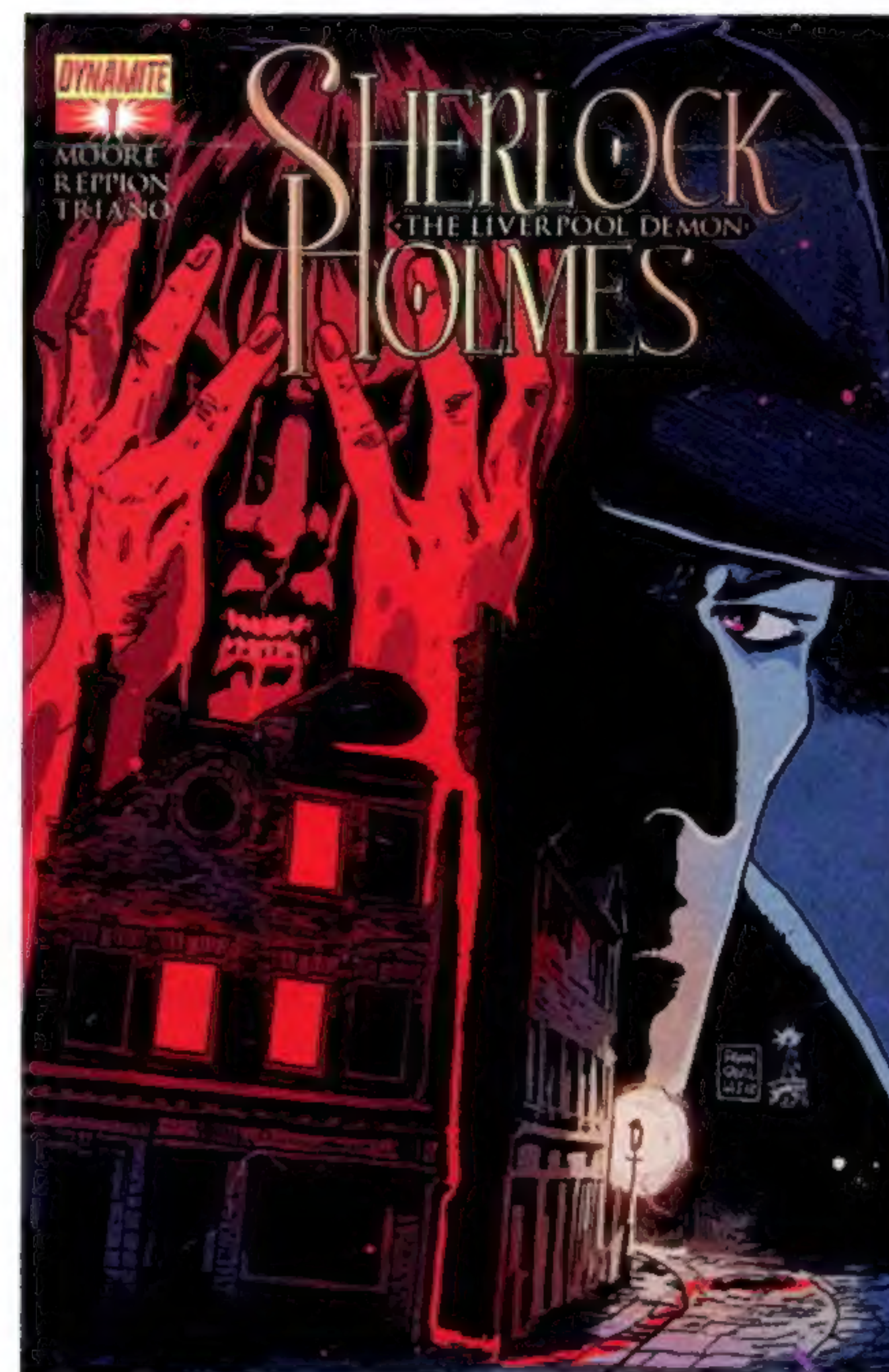
Leah Moore & John Reppion (W);
Matt Triano (A)
(Dynamite OCT120980 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Holmes and Watson find themselves stuck in Liverpool after a violent storm... just in time to encounter a monster, discover the Liverpool underworld, and solve one of the strangest cases in his career.

Why Should You Care?

Leah Moore & John Reppion, co-authors of the best-selling *Trial of Sherlock Holmes*, revisit the famous consulting detective in another compelling mystery sure to please legions of Baker Street Irregulars.



STAR WARS: PURGE—TYRANT'S FIST #1 (OF 2)

Alexander Freed (W);
Marco Castiello & Andrea Chella (A)
(Dark Horse OCT120051 \$3.50)

What's the Scoop?

Shortly after the birth of the Empire, Darth Vader must snuff out one surviving Jedi, as well as kill the fire of rebellion in the native populace.

Why Should You Care?

It never fails—fans seem almost forced to read any *Star Wars* tale featuring Darth Vader!



THUNDERBOLTS #1 NOW

Daniel Way (W); Steve Dillon (A)
(Marvel OCT120559 \$2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Meet the new Thunderbolts: Red Hulk, Venom, Elektra, Deadpool, & the Punisher! This is a team that doesn't get bogged down by the laws, the court system, or due process—they fight fire with fire, targeting the most dangerous and lethal bad guys in the Marvel Universe.

Why Should You Care?

What happens when you assemble a team of miscreant antiheroes who get in major trouble on their own? We'll be reading *Thunderbolts* #1 to find out!

Collected Cool: December's Best Reprint Editions

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN: GIL KANE HC

(DC AUG120259 \$39.99)

No artist has a more recognizable style than the incomparable Gil Kane—and this celebration brings that distinctive style to the world of the Man of Steel with a hefty collection of Superman tales from *Superman*, *Action*, *Superman Special*, and *DC Comics Presents*, featuring guest appearances by the Flash, the Atom, Hawkman, the Teen Titans, and Animal Man.



December's Big Event "Death of the Family"

BATGIRL #15

(DC OCT120193 \$2.99)

BATMAN #15

(DC OCT120183 \$3.99)

BATMAN AND ROBIN #15

(DC OCT120192 \$2.99)

NIGHTWING #15

(DC OCT120199 \$2.99)

RED HOOD AND THE OUTLAWS #15

(DC OCT120200 \$2.99)

SUICIDE SQUAD #15

(DC OCT120228 \$2.99)

The Joker's continues with his mission to restore the Dark Knight to his solo-hero status by eliminating all the members of Batman's extended family. And this time he's definitely not playing it for laughs—this is a more malevolent and brutal Joker than you've ever seen before!



ALEX TOTH'S ZORRO: COMPLETE DELL COMICS ADVENTURES HC

(Hermes SEP121126 \$49.99)

Comics legend Alex Toth's striking work for the Dell adventures of Zorro is collected in a full-color archival hardcover reprint! Cited by comic book artists, historians, and fans as some of Toth's best work, these stories have been painstakingly digitally reconstructed to look better than the original Dell comic books in this deluxe reprint which also includes tons of supplemental material.



DC COMICS: THE NEW 52 ZERO OMNIBUS HC

(DC AUG120249 \$150.00)

A massive hardcover collecting all 56 of DC's New 52 zero issues from September, featuring origins, secrets, and shocking fates of DC's super-heroes. Grant Morrison, Jim Lee, Brian Azzarello, Geoff Johns, Scott Snyder, Jeff Lemire—they're all represented in this whopper of a collection, along with dozens of other top talents.

EC: AL WILLIAMSON—50 GIRLS 50 & OTHER STORIES HC

(Fantagraphics OCT121087 \$28.99)

EC: JACK DAVIS—TAIN'T MEAT, IT'S HUMANITY HC

(Fantagraphics OCT121084 \$28.99)

Fantagraphics' artist-focused EC collections continue with two new volumes. The Al Williamson collection compiles all of Williamson's work for EC's "New Trend" comics (not just *Weird Science* and *Weird Fantasy*, but also his less-known crime and horror stories), including two classic Ray Bradbury adaptations and 3 stories drawn by Williamson's frequent collaborators (Angelo Torres, Roy Krenkel, and the legendary Frank Frazetta). The Jack Davis collection features every one of Davis's *Tales from the Crypt* stories in one gory package. Both books feature informative introductions and bonus text features—as if the classic stories at a bargain price aren't reason enough to add these to your must-have list!

KAMANDI: LAST BOY ON EARTH OMNIBUS HC VOL 2

(DC AUG120257 \$49.99)

Jack Kirby's final twenty issues of *Kamandi* (#s 21-40) are collected in the latest edition to DC's comprehensive collection of Kirby's entire body of DC work.

MAD ARTIST'S EDITION HC

(IDW SEP120304 \$225.00)

The latest addition to IDW's phenomenal line of *Artist's Editions*, reproduced in the same size as the original art, scanned in ultra-high-res, and printed in full color to convey every nuance of the originals, *Mad Artist's Edition* includes twenty stories from *Mad* #s 1-18, all presented in the massive 15" x 22" used for almost all original comics art in the 1940s, 50s, and early 60s.



SHOWCASE PRESENTS WEIRD WAR TALES TP VOL 1

(DC SEP120239 \$19.99)

Take a heaping helping of war stories, stir in a big scoop of weirdness, and you have *Weird Tales* #s 1-21, which are reprinted in this affordable black and white collection.

TARZAN: RUSS MANNING YEARS HC VOL 1

(Dark Horse AUG120053 \$49.99)

Dark Horse launches a comprehensive reprinting of the *Tarzan* art of one of the most striking clean-line comics artists of all time, the incomparable Russ Manning. This volume reprints *Tarzan* #155-#161, #163, #164, #166, & #167.

Check 'Em Out: Comics You Should Be Reading!

ARCHER & ARM-STRONG (NEW) #5

(Valiant OCT121228 \$3.99)

Valiant adds another intriguing facet to their unfolding universe with the debut of the Eternal Warrior. But what is his relationship to Armstrong?





BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER SEASON 9: FREEFALL #16

(Dark Horse OCT120017 \$2.99)

If you've started to take the *Buffy* comic for granted, *don't*. The creative team, following Joss Whedon's direction, continues to make this the best *Buffy* season you didn't get a chance to watch on teevee. In this issue, Buffy takes on the zombie epidemic in San Francisco with new allies: the SFPD and Billy the Vampire Slayer!

CRIMINAL MACABRE: FINAL NIGHT/ 30 DAYS CROSSOVER #1 (OF 4)

(Dark Horse OCT120012 \$3.99)

In this epic Dark Horse/IDW crossover, Steve Niles's greatest characters come together in a dramatic showdown. Detective Cal McDonald only wanted a beer, but what he got was a jaded federal agent and a story about vampires up in Barrow, Alaska... This is a great way to get familiar with Niles' most popular horror creations in a storyline that plays up the best of both worlds.

EARTH 2 #7

(DC OCT120162 \$2.99)

Come on—this is *Earth 2*! This is the doorway to the infinite possibilities of a New 52 multiverse! And it's filled with intriguing twists on the DCU. In this issue, we find out more about Hawkgirl, and Mr. Terrific makes his first appearance on Earth 2 since he left the world of the New 52!



SMALLVILLE SEASON 11 #8

(DC OCT120246 \$3.99)

If you miss the less grim, more heroic days of the classic DCU, then this is the book you should be reading! While the versions of Superman, Batman, Green Arrow, and other DC heroes aren't exactly the same, they capture the grandly heroic tone of classic DC at its finest. This issue pits Batman and Green Arrow against a Prankster-controlled Mister Freeze, while Superman takes on the Prankster himself.

100-PAGE SPECTACULAR WINTER 2012



STAR TREK 100 PAGE SPECTACULAR WINTER 2012

(IDW OCT120344 \$7.99)

H A Double-R I M A N spells Harriman... Presenting the story of Captain Harriman, the notorious commander of the Enterprise when Captain James T. Kirk was lost and presumed dead.

WONDER WOMAN #15

(DC OCT120156 \$2.99)

Wonder Woman and the New Gods? Sounds almost as appealing as peanut butter and chocolate! In this issue, Wonder Woman learns more about Orion and the New Gods as round one of a Wonder Woman-Orion faceoff rapidly approaches.



FYI: Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

COMIC STRIP COMPANION: UNOFFICIAL UNAUTHORIZED GUIDE TO DR. WHO IN COMICS '64-'79

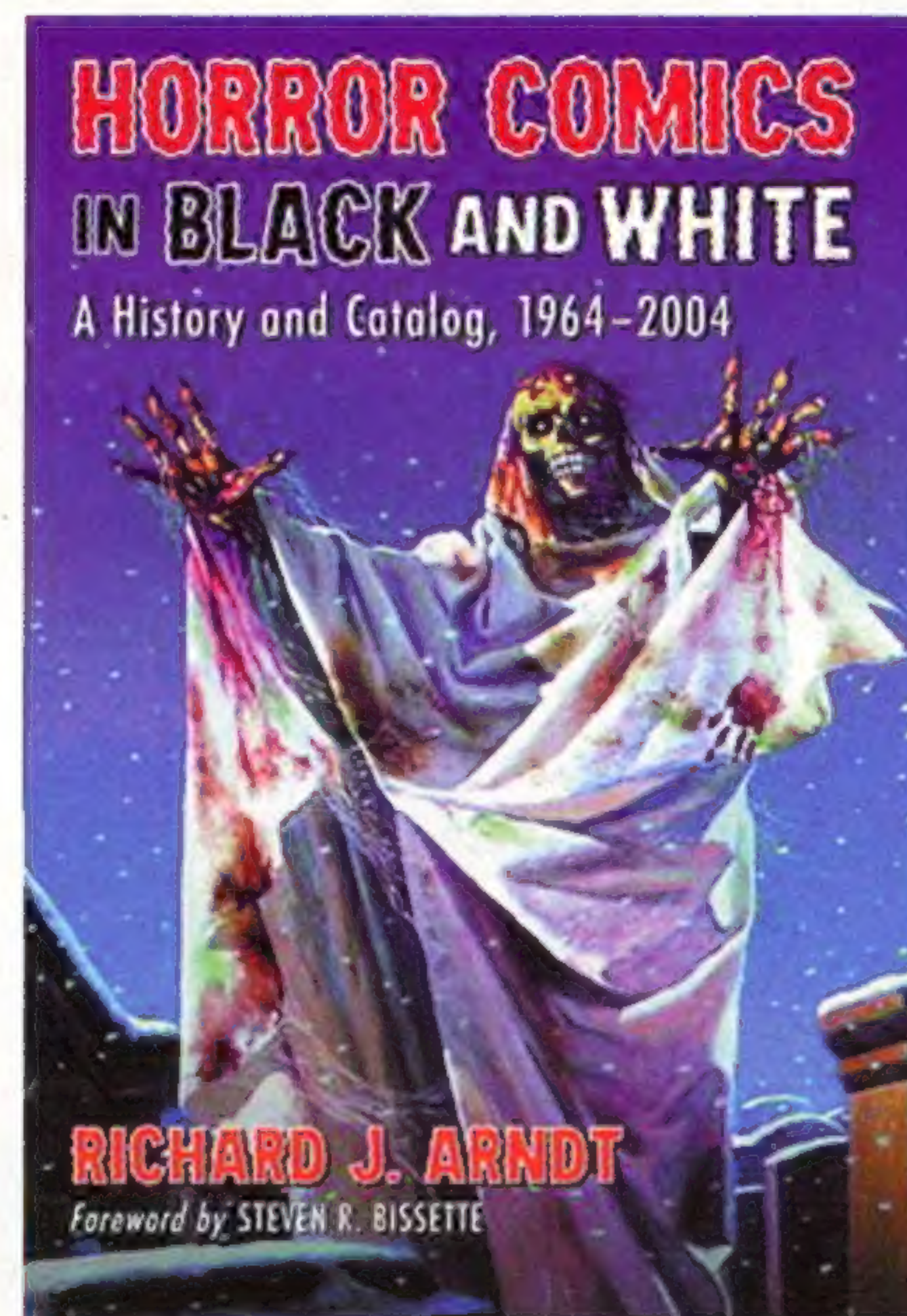
(Telos SEP121342 \$32.99)

This volume chronicles the first fifteen years of the *Doctor Who* comic strip from its early TV *Comic* to the period just before the strip moved to *Doctor Who Weekly* in 1979. During this time, more than 200 comic strip stories were published in magazines, comics, and books. Every strip is covered in depth—including plot details, continuity, points of interest, and analysis.

FRAZETTA SKETCHBOOK HC

(Vanguard AUG121383 \$39.95)

One basic rule of heroic adventure art: there can *never* be enough *Frank Frazetta*. This new offering from Vanguard features rare and previously unpublished drawings and painting preliminaries including barbarians, beasts, Tarzan, buxom beauties, monsters, and (of course!) Conan.



HORROR COMICS IN BLACK & WHITE: A HISTORY & CATALOG 1964-2004 SC

(McFarland SEP121335 \$55.00)

Stephen Bissette & Richard Arndt present a comprehensive history and retrospective of the black-and-white horror comics boom that began with Warren's *Creepy* in 1964 and flourished for four decades thereafter.



Hot Commodities: December's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

DC COMICS COVER GIRLS HARLEY QUINN STATUE

(DC Collectibles SEP120277 \$99.95)

Jack Mathews takes the Mistress of Mayhem into the third dimension with this striking statue that's sure to sell out fast!

GENTLE GIANT DEADPOOL CORPS MINI-BUST BOXED SET

(Gentle Giant JUN121916 \$199.00)

Featuring Kidpool, Dogpool, Headpool, & Deadpool, along with a variant minibust of Squirrelpool... sounds like it's time to 'Pool your resources for this sculpture set!

COMIC SHOP INSIDER

A FREE CHECKLIST OF WHAT IS IN SHOPS THIS WEEK

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iPhone app coming soon



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THE WHISTLING SKULL

**A 6-ISSUE
LIMITED SERIES**

WRITTEN BY

B. CLAY MOORE

ART BY

STARMAN'S

TONY HARRIS



DECEMBER 2012

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THE BIG DIRT NAP